



CITY OF EASTHAMPTON OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

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City of Easthampton "Call to Prevent Nuclear War" Resolution

Whereas nine nations collectively have approximately 14,500 nuclear weapons in their arsenals, most of which are far more destructive than those that killed hundreds of thousands of people in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, in 1945;

Whereas the detonation of even a small number of these weapons could have catastrophic human and environmental consequences that could affect everyone on the planet;

Whereas the United States maintains several hundred nuclear missiles in underground silos on hair-trigger alert, capable of being launched within minutes after a presidential order, which greatly increases the risk of an accidental, mistaken or unauthorized launch;

Whereas the United States continues to reserve the right to use nuclear weapons first, which reduces the threshold for nuclear use and makes a nuclear war more likely;

Whereas the U.S. president has the sole and unchecked authority to order the use of nuclear weapons;
Whereas over the next 30 years, the United States plans to spend an estimated \$1.7 trillion to replace its entire nuclear arsenal and the bombers, missiles and submarines that deliver them with more capable, more usable versions;

Whereas taxpayers spend over \$2 million every hour of every day to maintain the U.S. nuclear arsenal;

Whereas a new grassroots movement called "Back from the Brink: The Call to Prevent Nuclear War" has been endorsed by 250 health, environmental, academic, peace, faith, and justice organizations and has resulted in resolutions approved by 32 municipalities, including the cities of Los Angeles, Baltimore, Salt Lake City, and Washington DC, with more under consideration;

Whereas the United States, as well as Britain, China, France and Russia, are obligated under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) to take concrete steps toward eliminating their nuclear arsenals;

Whereas in July 2017, 122 nations approved the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons which, upon entry into force, will make it illegal under international law to develop, test, produce, manufacture, or otherwise acquire, possess or stockpile nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices;

We, the City Council of Easthampton, Massachusetts, therefore resolve to call on the United States to lead a global effort to prevent nuclear war by:

- Renouncing the option of using nuclear weapons first;
- Ending the sole, unchecked authority of any president to launch a nuclear attack;
- Taking U.S. nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert;
- Cancelling the plan to replace its entire arsenal with enhanced weapons; and
- Actively pursuing a verifiable agreement among nuclear-armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals.

We further resolve to call on our Mayor to affirm the resolution passed by the US Council of Mayors on June 12, 2018 Calling on the Administration and Congress to Step Back from the Brink and Exercise Global Leadership in Preventing Nuclear War, and to sign on to the pledge on preventnuclearwar.org.

And be it further resolved that we call on the United States to embrace the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

And be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution will be sent to state Representative Daniel Carey, State Senator John Velis, US Representative Richard Neal, US Senators Elizabeth Warren and Edward Markey, and President Donald J. Trump.

Signed this 5th day of Aug., 2020

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Salvador

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